

JAPAN AND RUSSIA EACH CLAIMS VICTORY

Alexieff and Togo Send Official Reports of Latest Battle—Japs Declare They Sunk One Destroyer—One Seaman Wounded.

Viceroy Alexieff and Vice-Admiral Togo made their respective reports on the latest naval fight off Port Arthur, both claiming victory. The Viceroy declared the Russian ships chased the Japs, while Togo stated that his guns had sunk a Russian torpedo boat destroyer.

St. Petersburg, (By Cable).—The Czar has received the following from Viceroy Alexieff, dated Port Arthur, February 26:

"After the moon had set early in the morning of February 25 the Russian fleet repelled several attacks of the enemy's torpedo boats, two of which are believed to have sunk in the open sea. Our torpedo boats, under Captain of the First Rank Matsuyama and Captain of the Second Rank Prince Lieven, unsupported, encountered and pursued the enemy's torpedo boats. They sighted no large warships.

"Later in the morning of February 25 the cruisers Bayan, Diana, Askold and Novik were sent out to prevent the Japanese from pursuing a portion of our returning torpedo boat flotilla. One of our torpedo boats, which was cut off by four Japanese cruisers, sought shelter in Dove bay, where it was subjected to a long distance fire by the enemy. It had no casualties.

"The Japanese fleet on sighting our cruisers came in closer to the forts, which, together with our warships, opened fire at 10.50. Our cruisers, still firing, entered the harbor, which our torpedo boats had already safely reached.

"The enemy's shells for the most part fell short. One seaman was wounded, but we sustained no other casualties.

"The Japanese fleet consisted of 17 large warships and 8 torpedo boats."

Tokio, (By Cable).—The official report of the attempt made last Tuesday night to block the harbor of Port Arthur has reached Tokio. The report was written by Vice-Admiral Kamimura, division commander under Admiral Togo.

The report recites that at a certain point near Port Arthur a number of merchant steamers, escorted by a torpedo flotilla, were dispatched for the purpose of closing the entrance to the harbor.

The torpedo flotilla rejoined the fleet at 10 A. M. Wednesday at sea at a rendezvous previously agreed upon and reported that the steamer Hokoku Maru had been sunk at the foot of the light-house on the left side of the entrance.

The Boshu was sunk outside, beyond the Hokoku Maru. The Tenshin Maru and the Buoy Maru and Jinsen Maru were sunk at the foot of Laotche hill almost side by side.

All the above-mentioned steamers were sunk by their own crews, who were all safely rescued.

A bombardment of the inner harbor was then ordered, and for 15 minutes all the heavy guns of the Japanese fleet threw shells over the hills into the harbor.

The Japanese were unable to determine the effect of the bombardment.

In the meantime the Japanese cruiser squadron discovered two Russian torpedo destroyers at the foot of Laotche Hill and gave chase. One of the destroyers escaped, but the other was pursued into Pigeon bay, where it was sunk.

As there was no wind blowing. The firemen used dynamite early in the morning, but the use of explosives was soon abandoned. A portion of the Kirby Building, occupied by the Rochester Dry Goods Company, fell. The front of the building occupied by the Beadle & Sherburne Company also fell into the street with a dull roar, carrying with it a mass of burning timbers, brick and plaster. Trolley wires broke and eight firemen had narrow escapes from injury.

The fire zone was guarded by large details of police. Had there been even a moderately high wind, the firemen say, nothing could have prevented a repetition of the Baltimore disaster.

The extreme cold this winter has frozen up many of the mains, and for the past two weeks the firemen have been engaged in thawing out the pipes. On account of the lack of proper apparatus this work has been slow.

At 7 o'clock Kirby Little and Commissioner of Public Safety Gilman telegraphed to Buffalo and Syracuse for assistance, and at 10.07 the Syracuse fire fighters arrived. They had been delayed on account of the severe cold which is delaying traffic on all the railroads in this part of the state.

The fire started so early in the morning that very few people were on the streets, but by 6 o'clock there were thousands crowding the scene of the disaster. The explosion of dynamite used to check the spread of the flames was supplemented by the thunder of falling walls. Mayor Cutler and Commissioner of Public Safety Gilman were on the scene shortly after the fire was discovered. Commissioner Gilman estimated the loss at about \$5,000,000.

The huge granite building belonging to Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co., the upper stories of which were occupied by hundreds of professional men, lawyers, doctors, dentists and business men, was gutted from the basement to the tenth story. The entire tenth floor of the Granite building was taken up with the offices of the Vacuum Oil Company, a branch of the Standard Oil Company. At 8.45 there was a tremendous explosion in the basement of the Granite building, where the Sibley Company conducted a large drug department. There have been several mysterious explosions in the burning buildings.

ENTIRE BUSINESS SECTION THREATENED. The Granite building will be a total loss. Across St. Paul street to the west is another dry goods store, Burke, Fitzsimmons, Home & Co. The efforts of the fire department were centered on the west wall of the Granite building to prevent it falling and spreading the fire to the west side of St. Paul street.

State Capitol Burned. Madison, Wis., (Special).—The Wisconsin State Capitol Building was badly damaged by fire, with a loss estimated at \$800,000. The State carries only partial insurance, being in the process of changing from insurance in companies to a system of State insurance. The fire may involve the building of a new capitol, a special session of the legislature and the probable renewal of the agitation in favor of the removal of the capital from Madison to Milwaukee.

Butte, Mont., (Special).—Five miners were killed by a cave-in of earth and rock in the Minnie Healy mine. The accident occurred on the sixth floor of the 1,000-foot level. Early in the day Foreman Joseph Kane was informed that the ground in that place was very soft and in danger of falling. He withdrew all the miners who were working there. Just how the fall came will never be known, as not one of the five escaped. Only two bodies have been recovered.

HANNA'S ESTATE WORTH \$7,000,000.

Investigation By Late Senator's Son Shows Double Recent Value.

Cleveland, O., (Special).—Dan R. Hanna and his attorney reported to probate court in this city that the estate of the late Senator M. A. Hanna showed a valuation of \$7,000,000, more than double the amount reported at the time of the presentation of will for probate.

The holdings of the late Senator in the Cleveland Electric Railway Company are valued at \$2,000,000. He was also a heavy stockholder in the American Shipbuilding Company, Pittsburgh Coal Company, Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad, as well as in the M. A. Hanna Company. His interest in the Pittsburgh Steamship Company, the marine wing of the United States Steel Corporation, was disposed of a short time before his death.

Local bank stocks represented a portion of his wealth.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

Wallace H. Ham, Boston agent of the American Surety Company, is charged with the embezzlement of \$190,000.

Harry A. Zillafro was hanged for murder at Kittinging, Pa.

The Massachusetts Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen is declared in revolt against the Supreme Lodge.

Rev. James J. Hartley was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

Special Attorney Conrad stated the evidence will not hold Samuel A. Groff, accused in connection with the postoffice cases.

A number of names have been suggested, but no candidate has yet been selected for the position of Republican national chairman.

The International Society of State and Municipal Building Commissioners and Inspectors was organized in Washington.

The will of W. C. Whitney leaves Harry Payne Whitney in charge of the estate.

Baron M. von Schlosser, a former German officer, was killed by a bear while hunting in Washington State.

Mayor Harrison testified at the murder trial of the Chicago car-barn bandits.

May wheat broke 5 1/2 cents then fluctuated widely in the Chicago wheat pit.

Senator Hanna's will leaves his estate of \$8,000,000 to his family, none being devoted to charity.

Failing to agree in St. Louis, committee of the factions of the Populist party may call two separate conventions.

Two men asleep in a caboose at Williamsport, Pa., were killed by the explosion of a locomotive.

Mme. Eleanore Petralli, a once famous opera singer, died in want in Chicago.

Seven persons were injured in a railway wreck near Bridgeport, Tenn.

Robert J. Rich of Iowa, a Yale student was found dead at the foot of a cliff in a New Haven park.

Col. Frederick Myers, 71 years old, and a negro nurse were arrested upon the discovery that the former's wife had died of poison.

President Don Parry addressed the Citizens' Industrial Association at Indianapolis in opposition to the proposed Eight-Hour bill now before Congress.

Foreign.

It was reported in St. Petersburg that Russia had an understanding with Germany that the latter would aid Russia if she became involved in war with several countries.

The towns of San Cristobal and Bani, Santo Domingo, were recaptured by men from the Morales gunboat President.

Another Government force was sent to attack the insurgents at San Pedro de Macoris.

Connor O'Kelly, M. P. of Mayo, Ireland, sailed for America.

The British naval estimates for 1904-1905 foot up \$184,445,000, an increase of \$12,160,000 over the estimates for 1903-1904.

Bishop Hartzel declares that the importation of Chinese is the only solution of the labor problem in South Africa.

Japan has negotiated a treaty with Korea, by which Japan guarantees the integrity of Korea, and Korea practically becomes Japan's ally in the war.

Sir Home Seton Gordon became deafened at Mentone, France.

In the massacre trials at Kischneff, Russia, the chief witness failed to appear.

Russia was said to be determined to send her Black sea fleet to the Orient even if under the guise of merchant ships. Another attack on Port Arthur was reported at Tokio. Admiral Alexieff took up headquarters at Harbin.

The Hague Arbitration Tribunal, to which was left the decision on the Venezuelan claims, unanimously decided that the blockading powers, Great Britain, Germany and Italy, should have preference in the payment.

Russian advance guards on the Yalu were driven back with heavy loss, estimated at 2,500, and the Sultan was reported to have agreed to allow Russia's Black Sea fleet to get out and take part in the war.

Financial.

The average price of twenty active stocks is now at the lowest point of the year.

A big borrowing demand for St. Paul indicates a growing short interest in that stock.

Another appeal for proxies has been made by a third protest committee of the American Ice Company.

The War Department has asked for proposals for the purchase of \$3,000,000 4 per cent. one year Philippine certificates.

An announcement will be made shortly telling the public what price must be paid for the new Cuban bonds.

London financial people are talking a good deal about the Czar's health. Yet he seems to be in better condition than many of his armor-clad warships.

JAIL AND HEAVY FINE

Machen, Lorenz and D. B. Groff are Sentenced.

EACH GETS TWO YEARS AND \$10,000.

Justice Pritchard Suspends Action in S. A. Groff's Case—Motions for New Trials Are Denied and the Defense Takes An Appeal to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia—Admitted to Bail.

Washington, D. C., (Special).—Justice Jeter C. Pritchard, after denying a motion for a new trial and an arrest of judgment, imposed a sentence of two years in the Moundsville (W. Va.) Penitentiary and a fine of \$10,000 each upon August W. Machen, George E. Lorenz and Diller B. Groff, three of the defendants in the post-office conspiracy case, who were convicted Friday. Samuel A. Groff, who also was convicted, will not be sentenced until his motion for a new trial is heard.

Attorney C. A. Douglas, of counsel for the defense, noted an appeal to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. Attorney Samuel Maddox entered a motion for a new trial and an arrest of judgment in the case of Samuel A. Groff, and the case will be heard by Judge Pritchard within four days.

In entering his motion, Attorney Maddox said to the court that the verdict in the case of Samuel A. Groff was so astounding and so entirely unexpected in view of Mr. Conrad's statement to the jury respecting the Government's willingness to drop his case, that counsel for the defense had not thought it necessary to move that the jury court direct the jury to acquit.

The defendant were released on \$20,000 bail each. O. G. Staples and David Moore, of this city, qualified as surety for Machen, Arthur E. Baker and Thomas R. Marshall for Lorenz, and S. A. Drury and Thomas H. Pickford for Diller B. Groff.

TEN CHILDREN BURNED.

Explosion of Alcohol Occurred at a Sunday School Entertainment.

Cincinnati, (Special).—An accident at the Richmond Street Christian Church here resulted in ten children being seriously burned and others painfully injured. Seven of those burned are in the City Hospital, and it is thought many others have been hurt.

The Sunday-school room was crowded for an entertainment given by the pastor, Rev. Vernon Stauffer. The evening had been set apart for the small boys, and quite a crowd of girls gathered on the outside. The pastor was telling fairy stories, and in order to make them realistic he provided a kettle, with salt in the bottom of it, saturated with alcohol. This was set afire to furnish light for the fairy stories.

Suddenly a draft struck the stream of alcohol and an explosion followed. All of those seated around the fire were burned. Besides the seven taken to the hospital, three were taken home badly burned, and others not seriously injured were bandaged up and taken home.

The blame for the draft is charged to the little girls who had been excluded and were opening doors to look in.

RUSHING ENGINES TO KOREA.

Philadelphia Firm Makes Seven in One Day for Fusan-Sanul Line.

Philadelphia, (Special).—In consequence of a rush order from the Japanese Government for locomotives a locomotive plant here has established a new record by the construction of seven locomotives in a day.

The engines ordered by Japan are for the military railway that will connect Fusan on the southern coast of Korea, with Seoul, the capital. The line will be about 253 miles in length. The order, which called for 20 locomotives to be completed within 30 days, was received late in January. Eight of them have been shipped to Fusan. The remaining 12 will be shipped this week. Six will be sent overland to San Francisco and will be loaded aboard a steamship for Fusan, while the remaining six will go by the all-water route from New York by way of the Suez canal.

HANGED FOR MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

Harry A. Zillafro Pays the Penalty of a Brutal Crime.

Kittinging, Pa., (Special).—Harry A. Zillafro was hanged in the county jail, yard here. The trap was sprung at 10.10 and death by strangulation followed in ten minutes. He was cool and collected on the scaffold and had nothing to say.

Zillafro was scarcely 21 years old. The crime for which he paid the death penalty was the killing of his young wife. The couple had parted and Mrs. Zillafro was living with her parents in the country. On February 14, 1903, Zillafro hired a team and drove 20 miles in the country to his wife's home stopping on the way to borrow cartridges and a shotgun. Secretly he carried a knife and a small bottle of poison.

When arrested he admitted the killing but refused to assign a reason for the deed.

Earthquakes in New Mexico.

Albuquerque, N. M., (Special).—The people living in the vicinity of Socorro, south of here, are becoming alarmed at the frequent recurrence of earthquake shocks. Three severe shocks have occurred during the last two weeks, and the great lava beds east of San Marcial, known as the Mal Pais, or Bad Lands, have been disturbed, great waves appearing on the surface.

Eight Break Jail at Anniston.

Anniston, Ala., (Special).—Eight prisoners made their escape from the city jail here. They were put in the jail corridor to take baths, being left there while the warden attended to duties in another part of the jail. The men tried to open a window and dropped 15 feet to the ground. Acting Warden Boselli has been suspended on account of the escape. Several of the escaped prisoners were serving long sentences for misdemeanors.

SAYS HECLA IS INSOLVENT.

Broker Wants Receiver for Famous Montana Mine.

Indianapolis, Ind., (Special).—The Hecla Consolidated Mining Company, which in the 22 years of its existence has paid, it is said, \$2,300,000 in dividends, was made defendant in a suit for a receiver, brought by Newton Todd, a broker of this city.

Todd declares that the company is insolvent. He charges a scheme on the part of the directors of the company to secure a preferred debt against the corporation and thus wipe out minority stockholders. He says no dividends have been paid in the last three years. Henry Knippenberg, president of the company, and John C. McCutcheon, secretary, deny these charges. It is set out that Todd owns 100 shares in the corporation, which is engaged in the business of copper mining in Montana.

LIVE WASHINGTON AFFAIRS

No American Slave Dealers in the Philippines.

Canal Board Completed.

President Roosevelt has completed practically the personnel of the Isthmian Canal Commission. Assurances have been received that C. Ewald Grunsky, a San Francisco hydraulic engineer, who was tendered an appointment after the declaration of Mr. Garber, will accept, although his formal acceptance has not been received.

It is probable that the seventh member of the commission will be Benjamin M. Harrod, of New Orleans, a member of the Mississippi River Commission. Some charges were made against Mr. Harrod, involving his capacity rather than his integrity, but thus far they are not taken very seriously by the President.

It has not been determined definitely whether the compensation of the members of the commission will be, but it is known that the President intends that they shall be well paid for their services.

President Roosevelt signed the ratifications to be exchanged between the United States and the Republic of Panama on the Isthmian canal treaty. The exchanges will be made at the State Department between Secretary Hay, acting for the United States, and M. Bana Varilla, the Minister of Panama. The President himself does not sign a treaty. Subsequently a proclamation will be issued by the President announcing the conclusion of the convention and putting it into effect.

Relief For Tobacco Growers.

At a hearing before the House Committee on Ways and Means Internal Revenue Commissioner Yerkes said he saw no reason why relief should not be extended to the tobacco growers of the South by removing the tax of 6 cents a pound on leaf tobacco.

This would allow the grower to sell his product to a merchant or anyone else, although Mr. Yerkes said that if this tobacco should be sold to a manufacturer the tax should be charged. This proposition is contained in a pending bill introduced by Representative Gaines, of Tennessee.

E. M. Flach, of Hopkinsville, Ky., and ex-Representative Washington, representing the Robinson County (Tenn.) Tobacco Growers' Association, told the committee that there was great distress in the "black tobacco belt" of Kentucky, where 140,000 pounds of tobacco was produced annually. From 80 to 85 per cent. of this tobacco is exported. It was stated, but there seemed to be a combination among the foreign buyers which kept the price very low. If the internal revenue tax were removed it would develop a domestic market for this tobacco, it was believed.

Protected by American Flag.

In a report to the Navy Department concerning his recent visit to the insurgent generals outside the walls of Santo Domingo City Ensign H. L. Brinser relates an interview which he had with General Arias, who was at the head of the revolutionary forces of that section, in which the latter made the serious charge that Frenchmen and Dominican soldiers were using the American flag to reach Santo Domingo in safety. In his report Mr. Brinser says:

"Then General Arias complained about boats coming in here flying the American flag, for instance the French; boats coming in with Dominican soldiers flying the American flag, and during that time the Government forces were firing upon the revolutionists and they could not fire back. General Arias said that our boats could go in at any time and that they would not fire on them."

Naval Record of Civil War.

Another volume of the official records of the Union and Confederate navies in the Civil War, compiled, under the direction of Secretary Moody, by Charles W. Stewart, superintendent of the Navy Department Library and Naval War Records, has just been issued. This volume is No. 17 of series 1 and embraces the reports, orders and correspondence relating to the operations of the Gulf blockade squadron from December 16, 1861, to February 21, 1862, and of the East Gulf blockade squadron from February 22, 1862, to July 17, 1865.

Congressional and Departments.

The Senate passed the Agricultural Appropriation bill.

It is thought Congress may be able to adjourn by May 1.

The House Committee on Education and Labor heard a lively discussion on the proposed eight-hour labor bill for government contractors.

President Roosevelt has secured acceptances from five men named as Panama Canal Commissioners and expects to complete the commission Thursday.

The President sent to Senate the documents relating to the Republic of Panama called for by Senator Morgan.

The House of Representatives passed the item in the Naval Appropriation bill providing for \$3,000,000 for the Naval Academy.

The Senate reached an agreement which practically cripples the Pure Food law.

THE TREATY IS RATIFIED

Overwhelming Majority in the Senate for Panama Canal.

TROOPS WILL BE SENT TO ISTHMIUS

Democratic Senators Were Almost Evenly Divided on the Question, But Only Fourteen Votes Were Cast in Opposition—The Closing Debate-Work to Be Commenced Soon After Commission Is Appointed.

Washington, D. C., (Special).—By the decisive vote of 66 to 14 the United States Senate ratified the Panama Canal treaty. All amendments were rejected. The formal ratification will be exchanged immediately between the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Panama, represented by Secretary of State Hay and Minister Bucna Varilla.

Thus an end is reached at last of the seemingly interminable period of deliberation and discussion in the United States over the construction of an inter-oceanic canal.

Now comes the era of actual work. Within a few days President Roosevelt will announce the names of the members of the Panama Canal Commission, at the head of which is to be Rear Admiral Walker, U. S. N. (retired). Congress will speedily pass the necessary additional legislation authorizing the payment of the money to the Panama Republic and making other provisions. Within a short time the energies of the United States will be in motion to start the actual work of construction upon the greatest engineering project and the greatest correction of nature's topographical interference with commerce ever known upon the face of the globe.

Epochal, and indeed, almost epochal, as was the moment of the ratification of the treaty, the business passed off in the Senate almost as if it were an every day affair. There was no applause; there were no senatorial or dramatic incidents. The voting was in secret session and, of course, there were no outside spectators of the big event.

ISLE OF PINES TREATY.

Failure of Ratification Attributed to Havana Oversight.

Havana, (Special).—The lapsing of the Isle of Pines treaty on account of its not being ratified within the time limit is regarded here to be mainly due to the fact that the State Department at Washington did not call attention to the matter. It would also appear, however, that the Cuban state department failed to remember this time limit.

The treaty was signed in Havana July 2, 1903, and was ratified by the Cuban Senate on July 16, since when it has been pending in the United States Senate. The last condition of the treaty was to the effect that the ratification be exchanged in Washington within seven months of the date of signing.

Persons interested in securing American sovereignty for the Isle of Pines are jubilant at this development, considering it to be a setback which gives additional promise of the final defeat of the proposition that the island remain under Cuban sovereignty.

RELIEF FOR FIRE SUFFERERS.

Maryland House of Delegates Authorizes Appropriation of \$250,000.

Baltimore, Md., (Special).—In the house of delegates at Annapolis a bill was introduced authorizing a contingent fund of \$250,000 for the relief of cases of destitution caused by the fire in Baltimore. The money is placed at the disposal of Gov. Warfield, with authority to employ such persons or agencies as he may think best for relieving those in need.

The special commission appointed to consider the condition of the burned skyscrapers reported that the Continental Trust and Union Trust buildings, the two tallest structures in the city, were not seriously impaired so far as their steel frameworks are concerned.

All the hotels here are crowded with guests made up largely of building contractors and supply manufacturers, insurance officials and merchants from other cities. The loss committee of the insurance companies reported that 1,800 claims have been settled.

UNITED STATES LED THEM ALL.

Got Nearly 400 More Awards Than Any Other Nation at Paris.

New York, (Special).—The official report of the French Government relating to the "Paris Exposition of 1900," shows that this country carried off the honors at that exposition. The awards accorded to exhibitors of the United States were 2,379; Germany, 1,983; Great Britain, 1,865; Russia, 1,754; Hungary, 1,351; Japan, 1,307; Austria, 875, and a number of smaller nations of lesser importance. This country's awards comprised 221 grand prizes, 563 gold medals, 735 silver, 529 bronze and 341 honorable mentions.

Bear Kills a Baron.

Port Angeles, Wash., (Special).—The body of Baron Martin von Schlosser, formerly an officer in the German Army and for many years a resident of this city, has been found on a range south of the Hot Springs near the body of a dead bear. The Baron while hunting undoubtedly had been killed by the bear.

Two Killed in Capitol.

Des Moines, Iowa, (Special).—Mrs. C. B. Fountain and her mother, Mrs. A. H. Hook, of Valley Junction, were killed in one of the State House elevators while accompanying Senator A. B. Funk, of the Capitol Improvement Commission. Their screams were heard in the capitol halls. Legislative business was suspended and disorder ensued.

Burned to Death in Jail.

Guthrie, Okla., (Special).—Carl Black and Cecil Hoggett, two young men, were burned to death in the city jail at Moun-tain View. They had been arrested for bedding caught fire from a lighted cigarette. The fire had made great headway before the cries of the two men attracted attention. By the time rescuers reached the jail the two prisoners had ceased to breathe against the iron bars and the entire building was in flames.

THE OLD DOMINION

Latest News Gleaned From All Over the State.

Fire of unknown origin broke out in the Angle iron shed of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company's big plant at about 7 o'clock the other night and totally destroyed the building. This was the only frame structure in all this immense area of the famous shipyard. At one time the fire appeared to be making considerable headway, as a brisk wind was blowing, and the battleship Virginia, the cruiser Charleston and other Government property appeared to be imperiled. The shipyard has its own fire department and possesses a comparatively complete equipment for fighting the flames. The company employs 7,500 men, and therefore can call into service any number of fire-fighters that may be needed. After a lively fight the shipyard employees got the fire under control sufficiently to prevent its spread to other buildings.

The structure that was burned was one of the most inexpensive on the grounds. The company officials estimate the loss at \$15,000, all covered by insurance. As seven government vessels, including the new cruisers Maryland and West Virginia are under construction at the yard, considerable anxiety was felt by Government officials until the news was received that the fire was entirely extinguished.

The oyster commission recommended by the Senate Committee for Fish and Game consists of Hon. A. D. Watkins, of Prince Edward county; Col. C. Fenton Day, of Isle of Wight county; Dr. Frank Fletcher, of Accomac county; Hon. T. C. Picher, of Fauquier county; Hon. Daniel Cullen O'Flaherty, of Warren county. The bill as it came from the house proposed as a committee to investigate and report as to the barren or depleted area within the bounds of the old survey, Delegate Jordan, of Frederick; patron of the bill; Delegate Hunley, of Matthews, and Senator George B. Keezell, of Rockingham.

The Senate committee, after considering the bill from 8 until nearly 11 o'clock agreed to an amendment providing for a commission of five instead of three, the five to be chosen from non-members of the General Assembly and to represent the five geographical grand divisions of the State.

Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Bell were fatally burned by a gasoline explosion at their home in Isle of Wight county. Both died shortly after the accident, which occurred last evening.

Among recent deaths of Virginians are the following: Mrs. R. E. Jones, of Lynchburg; W. D. Stewart, the Richmond Insurance man, in Atlanta; Mrs. Susan A. Moody, of Richmond; Mrs. R. S. Elyson of Newport News; Mrs. T. M. Woody, of Petersburg, died in East Orange, N. J.; Mrs. C. T. Kever, of Luray, died in Washington; J. E. Custy, of Winchester; Mrs. Stark Miller, of Staunton; W. J. Merck, at City View, near Petersburg.

Mrs. Rebecca I. Kirby, aged 81, for 60 years a teacher in Virginia schools, died at the home of her son-in-law, Mr. W. Daniel Williams, in Charleston.

During a hard wind storm a number of boats were capsized along the Rappahannock, and of the crews several were drowned. Those who perished near Salinda were Holland Wake, Ernest Smith, Robert Beryl—all colored.

The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of Rev. J. W. Fishburn, the negro charged with misrepresenting the property he sold to negroes in Norfolk. He was immediately arrested on the charge of obtaining \$50 from John Tucker, another negro, under false pretenses.